

OFFICE OF WORKS

John Mathews

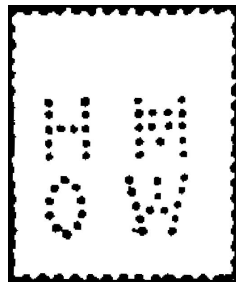
The following excerpt is from "The Demise of Departmental Overprints 1904. The View from the Official Side – Part 1" by Tony Wiseman, Gibbons Stamp Monthly, September 2005, page 44 - 46:

The Office of Works had been fighting a losing battle with the postal authority over their application to have their stamps overprinted "OW/OFFICIAL" in similar fashion to the "IR/OFFICIAL".

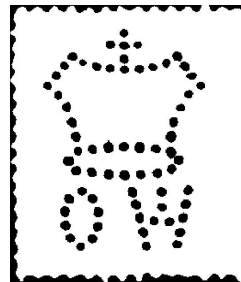
"The PO reply dated 11 June [1895] suggested the Office of Works write to Messrs William [sic] Sloper Ltd to get stamps perforated as they wished. That firm was approached on 8 August and suitable perfin were ordered, the 1d value on the 15th and the 1/2d on the 19th. The perfin for these was "HM/OW".

These proved unacceptable in use and it was suggested that a design incorporating a Crown might be better. These were ordered in October 1895 but proved equally unacceptable and were withdrawn 24/3/1896. There is nothing in the National Archives about this."

The "OW/OFFICIAL" overprint was finally introduced in 1896.



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O2015.01